इलाहाबाद बैंक में आग लगने की घटना

2683. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को संसद मार्ग स्थित इलाहाबाद बैंक में 2 मार्च, 1994 को आग लगने की घटना की जानकारी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त अग्निकांड के कारणों का पता लगाने और इसके परिणामस्वरूप ग्राहकों को हुई हानि सहित कुल क्षति का निर्धारण करने के लिए कोई कार्रवाई की है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और तथा इस घटना में दोषी पाये गये व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध तथा आग के परिणामस्वरूप बैंक और इसके ग्राहकों को हुई हानि की क्षति पूर्ति के लिए अब तक क्या कार्रवाई की गयी है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) इलाहाबाद बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि उनके द्वारा की गयी प्रारम्भिक जांच के अनुसार आग पुराने ए० सी० संयंत्र/डक्ट/एयर हैंडलिंग एकक को ठेकेदार द्वारा निकाले जाने के लिए किये जा रहे कार्य के कारण लगी है। बैंक, ग्राहकों को हुई हानि समेत चल सम्पत्ति को हुए नुकसान का आकलन कर रहा है। जहां तक अचल परिसम्पत्तियों को पहुंची हानि का प्रश्न है, रुड़की विश्वविद्यालय को इसका अनुमान लगाने के लिए कहा गया है।

चूंकि जांच अभी चल रही है इसलिए आग के कारण की जिम्मेदारी अभी तय नहीं की गयी है।

Decline in Disbursement of German aid

2688. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of the German Chancellor Mr. Kohl to India last year, Government had expressed concern over a decline in disbursement of German aid and discussed ways for improving the aid position;

(b) if so, what steps were taken by German Government in response thereto and how far the aid disbursements improved as a result thereof; and

(c) whether the question was discussed and taken up during the Prime Minister's recent visit to that country in February this year; if so, what are the precise terms and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The German Minister for Economic Cooperation & Development raised the issue of quicker utilisation of funds to step up the disbursement of German aid when he called on the Prime Minister during his visit to Germany and indicated that the period between Planning and actual utilisation needed to be cut down.

Detailed discussions have been held between German and Indian officials to identify the reasons for delay on both sides and steps are being taken accordingly on that basis.

Prosecutoin against I.T.C.

2689. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3677 given in the

Rajya Sabha on 28th August, 1993 and state:

(a) whether all complex issues involved in launching prosecution against M|s. ITC Ltd. Calcutta have since been cleared and prosecution launched;

(b) if not, how much time the Excise Department would take to get all the complex issues cleared and by when the prosecution would be launched; and

(c) whether there is any dicision taken by Government not to launch prosecution against the tax evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) All complex issues on launching prosecution against M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. have not been cleared and hence prosecution not launched.

(b) The matter is under active consideration and all necessary steps are being taken. It is not possible to indicate a definite time frame as, apart from legal issues involved, voluminous records of different Collectorates of Central Excise pertaining to several years have to be sorted out.

(c) No, Sir.

Reduction the import/customs duty on Printing Machines

2690. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 858 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government recognise the singular and consistent role played by the print media, as a mass, media of political and social awarness and emancipation;

(b) why the newspaper industry's and as for reliefs were earlier ignored whereas Government are going all out to promote the electronic media with incentives and an open air policy; and

(c) whether Government would now consider, in tune with the liberalisation process now under way, decontrolling the newsprint by rescinding the newsprint control Order, 1962 and also substantially reduce the import|customs duty on printing machinery and other consumables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Preferential treatment to foreign investors

2691. SHRI INDER KUAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 93 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd February, 1994 and state:

(a) whether he has taken note of a spurt in the shares recently;

(b) whether Government have stipulated any lock-in-period for investment;

(c) the taxation imposed on profits made by the foreign investors and the Indian inaestors; and

(d) whether the foreign investors are given some preferential treatment in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.